

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

UNITED STATES of AMERICA ) 18-CR-30031  
)  
)  
Plaintiffs, )  
)  
Vs. ) East St. Louis, Illinois  
) December 17, 2018  
EVELYN JEAN JOHNSON, )  
)  
Defendant, )

TRANSCRIPT OF CHANGE OF PLEA,  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE MICHAEL J. REAGAN,  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE.

APPEARANCES:

For the Plaintiffs: Assistant U. S. Attorney  
By: Norman R. Smith  
Nine Executive Drive  
Fairview Heights, Illinois 62298

For the Defendants: Sandifer Purchase  
By: Joslyn R. Anthony  
7707 West Main Street  
Belleville, IL 62223

Court Reporter: Barbara Kniepmann  
750 Missouri Avenue  
East St. Louis, IL 62202

Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography, transcript  
produced by computer.

1 THE COURT: Good morning all. Please be seated.  
2 United States of America against Evelyn Jean Johnson,  
3 18-CR-30031, is set this morning. The Court had been notified  
4 the defendant wishes to change her plea from not guilty to  
5 guilty, waive the Presentence Report and be sentenced today  
6 with a proposed agreement by counsel.

7 Mr. Smith is here for the United States. Good  
8 morning.

9 MR. SMITH: Good morning, Your Honor. Also present  
10 is Special Agent Eric Mooshegian with the Internal Revenue  
11 Service and Linda Voelker, my legal assistant.

12 THE COURT: Welcome. Miss Johnson is represented in  
13 the case by Counsel Anthony. Good morning.

14 MS. ANTHONY: Good morning, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Are you ready to proceed Miss Anthony?

16 MS. ANTHONY: We are, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Miss Johnson, come up here to the  
18 microphone, to the podium, with your lawyer. Come up here to  
19 the microphone.

20 Please raise your right hand and take an oath to  
21 either swear or affirm. You don't have to swear, but you have  
22 to affirm you are going to tell the truth under penalty of  
23 perjury. Do you promise to tell the truth under penalty of  
24 perjury when I ask you questions.

25 MS. JOHNSON: Promise to? I guess, yeah, I do, from

1 what I understand, yes.

2 EVELYN JEAN JOHNSON, PLAINTIFF, AFFIRMED

3 EXAMINATION

4 Questions by The Court:

5 Q. All right. What is your full name?

6 A. Evelyn Jean Johnson.

7 Q. How old are you?

8 A. I am 56.

9 Q. Do you read, write, speak and understand the English  
10 language?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. How far did you go in school? I need to ask all of  
13 these questions to make sure you are competent to plead  
14 guilty.

15 A. I am competent to plead guilty?

16 Q. Right. I am not competent to have a lawyer -- I mean  
17 to represent myself, but I am competent to plead guilty? You  
18 just lost me. I am sorry.

19 Q. I decided you could not represent yourself, but we have  
20 had a forensic evaluation indicating you are competent to  
21 stand trial, you are competent to assist your attorney and  
22 competent to understand the proceedings against you.

23 A. But that's what I'm --

24 Q. Miss Johnson, you have to answer my questions. I am  
25 not going to debate with you today. If you don't want to

1 answer my questions, we'll start trial tomorrow. I am on my  
2 last nerve with you, just so you understand.

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. How far did you go in school?

5 A. I graduated high school.

6 Q. Are you currently under the influence of any medicine,  
7 drugs or alcohol?

8 A. No, sir.

9 Q. Have you been treated to any addictions to medicine,  
10 drugs or alcohol in the past 60 days?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Do you have any mental disorders, mental defects or  
13 mental problems?

14 A. Describe mental.

15 Q. Any issues with your thinking, unclear thinking. Do  
16 you see things, hear things? Do you hear voices?

17 A. Other than the stress and torture I been up under  
18 during the past few months, no.

19 Q. Under the normal stress that would go with being an  
20 indicted individual?

21 A. No, that's not normal.

22 Q. Are you thinking clearly as you stand before me?

23 A. No, I'm not.

24 THE COURT: Counsel, I'm done. Look, she is arguing  
25 with me at every minute. We're done. 9:00 o'clock tomorrow

1 morning, trial.

2 Counsel, in case she has a change of heart and wants  
3 to respect the Court as she should and not play games with me,  
4 you can go before a Magistrate Judge today who may or may not  
5 take her plea. I am not.

6 Counsel, 8:45 tomorrow morning here in street clothes  
7 please.

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16 (Court is adjourned.)

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18 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript  
19 from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

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SS/Barbara Kniepmann

January 22, 2019

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